

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed May 19, 2005. Through this response, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate subject matter of claim 2, deemed in the Office Action as allowable, claims 3 and 4 have been amended to correct claim dependency in light of the amendment to claim 1, and claim 2 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims 1 and 3-44 are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 8-44 are allowable over the prior art of record.

Applicant also appreciates the Examiner's indication that claims 2-4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate subject matter of dependent claim 2. In that it is believed that every rejection has been overcome, it is submitted that each of the claims that remains in the case is presently in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 and 7 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by *Koyama et al.* ("Koyama," U.S. Pat. No. 5,384,501). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, in the interest of expediting issuance of the current case,

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to incorporate features corresponding to dependent claim 2 deemed in the Office Action to be allowable.

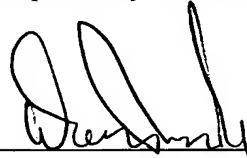
III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5 and 6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Koyama*. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection, and in particular, considers the rejection moot in light of the aforementioned claim amendments. Because independent claim 1 is allowable over *Koyama*, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5 and 6, which depend from independent claim 1, are allowable as a matter of law.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. Any other statements in the Office Action that are not explicitly addressed herein are not intended to be admitted. In addition, any and all findings of inherency are traversed as not having been shown to be necessarily present. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,



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